Five Year Plan period, the outlay for construction of courts including High Courts through development of infrastructure, their modernization and computerization of all courts has been enhanced to Rs. 1470 crore.

Reservation in judiciary

374. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether Government has received any proposal to extend reservation in judiciary for SCs/STs;

if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

if not, the reasons therefor; and

the present status of SC/ST persons in judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Law and Justice. In their Report submitted to the Parliament on the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 has recommended bringing the higher judiciary under the ambit of reservation.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.Any change in the present system would require Constitutional amendment. No statistics is, therefore, maintained regarding the nubmer of SC/ST Judges in the Supereme Court and the High Courts.

So far the District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, appointments of Judicial Officers for the same is done by respective State Governments/High Courts.

Amendment in Contempt of Courts Act

375. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minsiter of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether Government proposes to amend the Contempt of Courts Act;

if so, the details of the proposed amendments; and

whether any Bill for amending the Act is proposed to be introduced during the Budget Session?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of more courts

376. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently urged Government to set up more courts with better infrastructure in view of huge number of pending cases;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

whether Government proposes to set up more courts in the present plan period and to ensure that backlog of court cases are cleared; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Government and the Judiciary at the highest level have been interacting for reducing of the arrears of cases in the courts. Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored plan scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary. Another Central Scheme for computerisation of subordinate courts in the country is also under implementation. Government has continued Fast Track Courts to reduce arrears at Sessions Courts level.

Further, with a view to providing speedy, affordable and substantive justice to the poor at the grass root level and also with a view to reducing the existing pendency of cases in the courts, Government proposes to establish more than 5000 Gram Nyayalayas during the current Plan period and has accordingly introduced the 'Gram Nyayalayas Bill' in the Parliament.

Delimitation of constituencies

†377. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

the date of constitution of the present Delimitation Commission alongwith the dates when its appointments were made;

the tenure of the Commission and whether it has completed its assignment within the said tenure;

the names of the States where delimitation work has been completed alongwith those where it could not be completed so far;

by when the delimitation work would be completed in those States; and

whether the ensuing elections to the Parliament and State Assemblies would be conducted in accordance with the new delimitation or the old delimitation would continue to be in force?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Delimitation Commission was constituted in terms of section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) *vide* notification dated the 12th July, 2002.

(b) to (d) The Delimitation Commission was constituted with effect from the 12th July, 2002, initially for a period of two years. The tenure of the Commission has since been extended. The present term of the Commissions is upto the 31 st July, 2008. The Delimitation Commission has so far issued final Orders in respect of 25 States/Union territories. In pursuance of section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the delimitation exercise in respect of the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have been deferred *vide* four Orders dated 8th February, 2008. Further, section 10B of the said Act nullified the Delimitation Commission's Orders issued with respect to the State of Jharkhand. Thus, the delimitation exercise in respect of all the States except the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been completed.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.